

The Vidette - Reporter.

A Tri-weekly Newspaper Published by Students of the University of Iowa.

VOL. 26.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1894.

NO. 59.

A Letter From Russell

FORT RESOLUTION, Dec. 15, 1893.

Dear Sir.—I reached this point two hours ago * * * and the account of how I came might prove interesting.

The Indian engaged to go before the dogs, "struck" for higher wages causing a delay in our departure from Ft. Rae so that it was not until Dec. 1st that the packet started in charge of the French half-breed, Henri Laferty with the Indian Yakty (Barking) running before. * * *

Crossing the northern arm of the Great Slave Lake by a three mile traverse we entered the portage—as any track across land is called—at a point, about seven miles from the post just as day was breaking. We traveled until midday, portaging from one small lake to another. These so-called lakes are but a few yards in extent. For the sake of amusement I counted the lakes and ponds on the trail to Providence and found a grand total of one hundred and ninety.

About one-third of the way across we crossed "Lac Bouleau"—Birch Lake—which is spoken of as the largest lake on the trail. It is, perhaps, eight miles in length. From the "Big Lake" to Birch Lake there is no timber of any size until within a few miles of the latter lake where there is a dense growth of small pines. The country is level, with muskgs and many small lakes. The sleds were heavily loaded with the fish for the dogs and the latter had no little difficulty in dragging the sleds up the banks from the lakes. As there was no track we were compelled to wear snow-shoes throughout the trip. This made it more difficult to manage the sleds which we pushed with a pole one end of which was tied at the middle of the load, and though the load was lightened by eight fish at night and two at noon, each day, the dogs became so worn out with continual forcing that we pushed throughout the trip. The trail is marked through the timber by blazed trees and a few cut trees and branches. Through the muskgs a broken willow twig here and there marks the course.

We could seldom start before early dawn owing to the difficulty of finding the way, and even in daylight considerable time was lost in searching for it in leaving the lakes or in crossing treeless stretches of muskeg. The trail is very crooked, especially in the dense timber where it turns continually at sharp angles to avoid cutting the trees. The dogs turn well enough but the end of the sled lands squarely against the trees, stopping the train and compelling one to wade through the snow—laden underbrush to the front of the sled and haul it to one side and yell "marche!"—the French imperative used to start the team, and after repeating this performance several hundred times a day perhaps a few more remarks may be added.

Another feature of the trail is the *Brûlés*, the largest of which the *Grand Brûlés*, lies about ten miles south of Birch lake. Here the burned trees have fallen into an inextricable

maze over which the dogs jump with more or less difficulty but over which the front of the sled must frequently be lifted, giving another opportunity for "remarks." The spruce trees in the belt of live timber north of the *Grand Brûlés* sometimes attain a diameter of eighteen inches and are of fair height.

On the evening of the fifth day we made our camp on the south shore of Lion Lake, a much larger lake than Birch Lake. In selecting a camping place we aimed to find wood and pine brush together, water being obtained for tea by melting snow. Leaving the dogs in the harness one man would clear away the snow with a snow-shoe while the others gathered about a cord of dry wood. Then the small spruce or pines would be cut and the boughs trimmed off for a dry foundation for the camp. The green trunks were thrown at the back and sides enclosing a space reaching ten feet back from the fire and varying in width according to the number of the party. The dogs would then be unharnessed, much to their delight, and the sleds dragged against the back or sides of the camp. The extra man would by this time have the fire started and while the fish for the dogs was thawing before the fire, the tea-kettles—tin or copper pails—would be put on the fire. As soon as the fish were thawed enough to bend, though still frozen on the inside, the dogs would be fed—two fish to each dog—each man watching his dogs to prevent stealing or fighting. Then the men ate their dry meat and drank tea. I took a few "cakes"—bread is called "cakes" in this country—which I would set before the fire to thaw and frequently the side away from the fire would freeze again while the other scorched. After our meal, which is always spoken of as "drinking tea," moccasins, mittens and clothing in general would be dried after which I rolled up in my blanket leaving the men drinking tea and eating dry meat again.

Hesperian Special.

The presentation of Tennyson's "Princess" with several selections of excellent music interspersed, formed the entire program. The plot, though perhaps familiar to most of our reader, is as follows:

The Prince of the Northern Empire who for many years has been betrothed to the Southern Princess, now sends for her; receiving a vague reply, he with his two friends Florian and Cyril go to the king, her father, and from him learn that the Princess is one of the instructors in a college which was founded, by Lady Psyche, Florin's sister, and Lady Blanche, solely for maidens, and where "no man may enter on pain of death." The king gives letters to the Prince, and he determined to see this Princess at all hazards. At the suggestion of Cyril the three disguise themselves as pupils and seek to enroll under Lady Psyche. The plan succeeds charmingly until Lady Psyche recognizes Florian, her brother, and flies into a passion at their boldness in thus trespassing the rigid inscription over the gate. They plead with

her and she yields, promises to keep their secret if they will go quietly away. Their conversation is overheard, by Melissa, daughter of Lady Blanche, and thus the news is spread. Lady Blanche is enraged, and pours a torrent of words at Lady Psyche, accusing her of lending a hand in the daring act. Although there was for a time much consternation in the college the doors are finally thrown open to all, both men and women and the Prince gains his Princess.

During the interval between the first and second scenes the audience was favored with a piano solo by Miss Gertrude Wood. In one scene a very pretty drill was given by eight of the young ladies, pupils of Lady Blanche and Lady Psyche. This was one of the prettiest features of the program and much credit is due to those who gave it for the manner in which they rendered the various figures of drill. Following this was a vocal solo by Mr. Wilson which received a hearty encore.

Another pleasing feature was a beautiful pantomime of the bugle song which was given by Miss Jessie Corlett. Miss Corlett's gestures are especially graceful but she sometimes lacks the facial expression, so essential in pantomime, if the thought be forcibly expressed.

A piano solo by Mr. Long was much enjoyed and received also a hearty encore.

In the cast of character all the parts were well sustained but Mary Holt, '95, as Prince, Theresa Peet, '95, as the Princess and Elizabeth Jones, ex-'96, deserve special mention, as each one seemed to understand the character she impersonated in all situations. The costumes of some were also very unique.

The program as a whole was a change from the usual order of a special and the Hesperians may well congratulate themselves on the manner in which it was rendered.

Communication.

IOWA CITY, Feb. 19th, 1894.

To the Editor of the *Vidette-Reporter*.

Sir: The article by Mr. B. L. Wick, in the last issue of the *VIDETTE-REPORTER* is so misleading that I will ask you to allow me briefly to correct in your columns some of his innumerable errors.

Americans have often had an opportunity to laugh heartily over grotesque and distorted pictures of our own institutions and customs as reflected in the notebooks or "first impressions" of foreigners who after a few days or weeks in this country feel the *caecothes scribendi* so strong upon them that they must, forsooth, at once inform a waiting world just how we live and why we don't do it some other way. To balance things, we now have in Mr. Wick, the spectacle of an American who seems desirous and fully capable of turning the tables on our German cousins of the university in the most approved style of the art. If this is not his object it is charitable to suppose that some German student has been "gulling" him—with brilliant success.

It would take altogether too much

space to restate and refute one by one all the misrepresentations and blunders in which Mr. Wick's letter abounds and it is not at all necessary to do so since anyone interested in the object can easily find in Hart's book on the German Universities and, in other accessible sources, accurate delineations of student life.

To justify my own positive statements as to the inaccuracies of the article criticized, I have the direct personal knowledge of the facts gained by attendance for four years at three German Universities.

L. W. A.

College Notes.

Optional Chapel has been instituted at Princeton.

Lehigh University is to have a laboratory to cost \$200,000.

The Normal College of New York City contains 2,200 students.

President Helen Shafer of Wellesly college is dead.

Franklin and Marshall college will publish a monthly comic paper.

A chapter of Phi Delta Theta has been organized at the University of Illinois.

Pfeffer has been re-elected captain of the University of Illinois foot ball team.

The Law School of DePauw University will be suspended at the close of the present term.

The University of New York is to erect a three-story building, to cost \$750,000, on its present site.

A practice course has been instituted in the law department of the University of Michigan.

C. W. Goss has donated \$20,000 and forty acres of land toward the erection of a free-thought university at Kearney, Nebraska.

The library of the University of Pennsylvania has recently received a gift from Mr. Fairman Rogers of 1,500 volumes on horses, horse raising and riding.

The football treasurer's report at Andover shows receipts of \$1,559.60 and expenses amounting to \$1,404.85, leaving a balance of \$15.75.

The late Professor Tyndall is said to have given the entire proceeds of his lecture tour in this country several years ago, amounting to about \$23,000, to provide college scholarships for poor students.

The library and manuscripts of the historian, Bancroft, have been purchased by the University of Chicago, for \$80,000. The University library, of 225,000 vols., is now the largest in any of America's Universities.

The Columbia College Library has received 20,000 volumes during the past year, making a total of 160,000 volumes. It contains the Avery Architectural Library of 9,000 volumes, the richest collection of its kind.

President Harper announced at the winter convocation of the University of Chicago, that John D. Rockefeller had sent on \$50,000 cash to be spent at once for books. This gift is distinct from the \$500,000 due after July next.

The Vidette-Reporter.

Issued from the Republican Office on Washington street on every

TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY,
during the Collegiate year at the University of Iowa.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,

Iowa City, Iowa.

Entered at the Iowa City Post Office as second class matter.

We publish in another column a request that all delinquent subscribers settle with the Business Manager at once.

The abuse of library privileges is not confined entirely to the students. Some professors, we understand, are in the habit of taking books to their classrooms and keeping them there indefinitely, thus disregarding the rights of the entire University. We do not mean that books should not be taken from the library for special work or for the accommodation of certain classes, but whenever this is done great care should be exercised in returning the books promptly. The work of one department often requires references to books especially used in another and their absence is a serious inconvenience to both the student and the professor.

We are told by some of our Y. M. C. A. delegates to Davenport that sundry remarks were heard on this hand and on that, concerning the presence at the Convention of one of our professors, to the effect that "quite a change must have been brought about at the State University in the last few years to send one of the Faculty to a Y. M. C. A. Convention." Strange as it may seem to us, the conception of our moral condition, manifested by these chance utterances, is quite prevalent over the State. Perhaps a few points in our history a decade or more back, or perhaps the lax observance of State law by the municipality of Iowa City offers some excuse for this ignorance, or "ignore-ance," as we fear it too often is. But, though our reputation along this line is the cause of serious injury to the University, there is for the reputation itself no sufficient cause. While it is natural that a State institution of learning should be attended by more representatives from the ranks of non-church members than is the case with

a denominational institution, it is not therefore to be concluded that this element dominates the religious ideas or necessarily lowers the moral standard, and with some knowledge of the facts, we venture the assertion that the State University affords better environment for the development of a robust moral character and of healthy religious conceptions than can be afforded within the narrow walls of a denominational school.

University Calendar.

Tuesday, 8 p. m. Lecture by Professor Nutting, on "S. U. I. Afloat," at Close Hall.

Thursday, 8 p. m. Senior Social, in Society Halls.

Friday, 8 p. m. Irving and Zeta-gathian Society, programs in Society Halls.

Saturday, 3 p. m. Hare and Hounds run from Close Hall.

Saturday, 8 p. m. Erodolphian Society program, in North Hall, South Building.

Notice!

All men who are willing to do their best to keep the Iowa Inter-Collegiate Athletic Cup, at S. U. I., are earnestly requested to meet at Close Hall, 7 p. m. Wednesday, Feb. 21. We must get together and work together. This means you.

WM. T. CHANTLAND, Capt.

Notwithstanding all the rumors to the contrary, the captaincy of the ball nine has not yet been determined. First and second choices for captain have been received from members of last year's team, but the athletic committee has not yet acted in the matter, and the willingness of the men who secured the largest number of votes to serve is also uncertain. It is therefore entirely premature to say that any selection has been made.—*Harvard Crimson.*

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Dancers Attention!

Miss Tripp will organize new classes in dancing after February 17. Students desiring to take lessons are urged to be present when the new classes are organized. Every class meets at 8 o'clock, every Saturday evening, program is given after class hour. Admission \$1.00.

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Corinth Lodge No. 24, Knights of Pythian, will celebrate the 30th Pythian anniversary at their Hall, Thursday evening, Feb. 22nd, and cordially invite all Knights of Pythians to attend. There will be work in the Rank of Page, after which games and refreshments.

O. A. BYINGTON.
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Hamlet.

Mr. Walker Whiteside, the tragedian, who has attracted such attention during the past four weeks at the Schiller Theatre, Chicago, will appear at the Opera House, Thursday, February 25, in Hamlet. During his engagement in Chicago he has appeared in four characters but his Hamlet has attracted the most attention, as he exhibits a greater degree of careful study and insight than has apparently been devoted to his other characterizations, but it could hardly be expected that he could be equally great in all characters he essays. The scenery and costumes used in this city will be the same as used in his Chicago productions.

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Professor McBride lectured in Waterloo Friday evening.

Miss Boyd of Tipton visited Mary Holt, '95, last Saturday.

Elizabeth Moore, '93, visited with S. U. I. friends Saturday.

The Zoology class were given an examination Monday morning.

Tourtellot, '95, spent Sunday in Cedar Rapids with his brother.

Brockway, '95, was visiting in Monmouth Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Decker, of Minneapolis, is visiting Mrs. G. T. W. Patrick.

Miss Pearl Bye, of West Liberty, spent Sunday with Fannie Davis, '95.

Melvin L. Sears, '91, of Omaha, spent Monday, with University friends.

Misses Addie Grey and Mary Heppenstall, of West Liberty, spent Sunday with Maud Grey, '97.

Thompson, '94, who has been absent from recitations on account of the measles, has returned to his work.

The following men secured scores of over 35 points out of a possible 50 in Saturday's target practice: Hetzel, 43; Lary, 42; Sears, 41; Graves, 39; Havlik, 39; J. Williams, 38; Hobbs, 36; Fatherson, 38; Morrison, 36; Emry, 35.

The Glee Club is rehearsing twice a week now in preparation for their trip which they intend making next vacation. The club now numbers some twenty members, and judging from the work being done at present by them, a good concert will be produced in the near future which will well be worth the attendance of everyone interested in the development of musical talent in the University.

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The Seniors give a reception Thursday evening.

The Sophomores will banquet the Freshmen Thursday, March 1st, at the Society Halls.

Sophia Moore, '92, left Sunday evening for Omaha, where she will take the position of book-keeper in her brother's office.

L. A. Meddaugh, M. '94, has been obliged to stop his work on account of his ill health, and will soon leave Iowa City for his home in Clear Lake.

We are sorry to learn of the serious illness of Barker, '97, who has been confined to his home since last Wednesday with a severe attack of sickness.

The members of the French classes have arranged a Conversation Club, which meets every Thursday evening, nothing but French being spoken during the meeting.

It seems to be a deplorable fact that so few men attend the Saturday runs. Last Saturday but four men appeared at Close Hall ready to run. Of these the two new men, Emry and Pfeiffer, showed up remarkably well for the brisk run of two miles. Emry coming in second with but little exhaustion. If material is to be produced for the class relay races to be held next Field Day it must be developed in these runs, and more men should turn out and avail themselves of the advantages to be derived from them.

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